

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



1.941  
722572  
2p3 STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U.S.D.A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 15, 1949 SS-84

All-Crop Volume Continues High

Taking U. S. crops as a whole, production prospects on November 1 were nearly the same as a month earlier. Ups and downs of various crops brought a decline of only 1 index point. Total all-crop volume is now indicated at 30 percent above the 1923-32 average and is second only to last year's record high.

Fall Weather Mostly Favorable

Fall weather has been unusually fine, generally, despite some setbacks in spots. Windstorm in Northwestern Corn Belt caused a salvage problem in corn fields. Frequent rains in South Central areas slowed cotton picking. And the tropical hurricane damaged rice in Texas. The late fall season improved yields of many crops, made for longer grazing season, and extended use of gardens and vegetable crops.

Fall Grain Seeding Well Advanced

Fall seedings prospered under ideal conditions in most of the area east of the Rockies. Wheat seeding for the new crop is well advanced--practically completed except in late-seeding areas.

Corn Crop Still Near Record, Rice a Record

Corn prospects dropped 119 million bushels from the October estimate. Reduction mainly based on poorer harvesting returns than expected in the Corn Belt. A crop of about 3.4 billion bushels is now indicated. In October prospects were for 3.5 billions. Production is still big, exceeded only by last year's 3.6 billion bushels. 10-year average has been 2.8 billions. Prospects for rice went down 2.1 million bushels from last month but the 87.5 million bushels will still exceed all previous years. Production last year, 81.2 million; 10-year average, 62.9 million bushels.

Estimate For Pecans Down, But Up From Average

Estimate for pecans is down 11 million pounds from month ago. Now estimated at 130 million pounds, crop is about a fifth above average but less than three-fourths of last year's record.

Grape Crop Continues Down--Still A Big Crop

Grape prospects also declined a little last month, continuing a previous decline in September. U.S. crop now expected to total nearly 2.9 million tons, 4 percent above '38-'47 average but about 6 percent below last year's 3-million-ton crop.

Dry Beans Production Rises to Record Place

Outlook for dry beans improved last month and a record crop of 21 million bags (100 lbs.) is now expected. Production last year, 20.8 million; 10-year average, 16.9 million.

Tobacco, No Change; Total Same As '48

Tobacco production will total about 2 billion pounds, and is third largest crop of record. No change in the total from last month's estimate, moderate declines in flue-cured and burley being offset by increases in other classes. Last year's crop was near 2 billion pounds; 10-year average, 1.7 billion.

Cotton Forecast 15.5 Million Bales

U. S. cotton crop is now forecast at 15,524,000 bales compared with 15,446,000 month ago. Last year's production, 14,868,000; 10-year average, 11,306,000 bales. Increases from month ago, mainly in Texas and Oklahoma, more than offset the decreases in several other cotton States.

Estimates of Other Crops, With Comparisons

Wheat, 1,126 million bushels. Production last year, 1,288 million; average, 992 million.  
 Oats, 1,321 million bushels. Last year, 1,492 million; average, 1,234 million.  
 Barley, 234 million bushels. Last year, 317 million; average, 305 million.  
 Rye, 19 million bushels. Last year, 26 million; average, 35 million.  
 Buckwheat, 5.2 million bushels. Last year, 6.3 million; average, 7.1 million.

Flaxseed, 41 million bushels. Last year, 52.5 million; average, 30.1 million.

Sorghum grain, 131.8 million bushels. Last year, 131.6 million, average, 102.4 million.

Hay (all), 99.1 million tons. Last year, 99.8 million; average, 99.5 million.

Peas, (dry field, 100 lbs.), 3.4 million bags. Last year, 3.6 million; average, 5.6 million.

Soybeans, 215.2 million bushels. Last year, 220.2 million; average, 148.4 million.

Peanuts, 1.8 billion pounds. Last year, 2.3 billion; average, 1.8 billion.

Potatoes, 386.8 million bushels. Last year, 445.8 million; average, 393.4 million.

Sweetpotatoes, 52.3 million bushels. Last year, 49.8 million; average, 63.6 million.

Sugarcane, (sugar and seed), 7.9 million tons. Last year, 6.8 million; average, 6 million.

Sugar beets, 10.1 million tons. Last year, 9.4 million; average, 10.1 million.

Broomcorn, 43 thousand tons. Last year, 30 thousand; average, 42 thousand.

Hops, 49.5 million pounds. Last year, 49.8 million; average, 44.1 million.

Pasture condition, 81. Last year, same time, 70; average, 73.

Large Crop of Soybeans; Peanuts, Average

The estimated 215 million bushel crop of soybeans is the second largest on record. Production last year, 220 million; 10-year average, 148 million. The peanut crop, estimated at 1,846 million pounds is about an average crop. Record crop last year totaled 2,338 million pounds.

More Deciduous Fruit Than Last Year--  
Considerable Quantities Will Not Reach Market

Total deciduous fruit production, about 10 million tons, is up from last year by 16 percent and is short of the record 1946 crop by only 5 percent. Crops up from last year, with the percentage increase: apples up 51 percent; peaches, 15 percent; pears, 36 percent; cherries, 7 percent; plums, 37 percent; prunes, 5 percent. Smaller crops than last year were grapes, down 6 percent and apricots, down 13 percent. Some of this year's fruit will not be marketed. Growers consider prices too low to cover harvesting.

Apple Varieties, Compared With Last Year

Production of Baldwins this year will be about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as many as last year. Delicious, Grimes Golden, and Yellow Newtown will total a third more than last year; McIntosh and Jonathan up a half; Winesap, Rome Beauty, and Golden Delicious up

COMMODITY AND UNIT	PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED		
	ACTUAL PRICE	PARITY PRICE	Oct.
	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.
Sept. 15 1949	1949	1949	1949
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	1.87	1.89	2.12
Corn, bu. ....dol.	1.16	1.09	1.54
Peanuts, lb. ....ct.	10.2	10.2	11.5
Cotton, lb. ....ct.	29.70	28.70	29.76
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	1.38	1.30	1.76
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	19.90	17.60	17.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....dol.	20.00	19.50	13.00
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....dol.	22.40	21.90	16.20
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	21.60	21.50	14.10
Butterfat, lb. ....ct.	1/ 62.1	1/ 60.2	63.1
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. ....dol.	1/ 3.90	1/ 3.90	3.84
Chickens, live, lb. ....ct.	24.4	23.2	27.4
Eggs, doz. ....ct.	1/ 49.1	1/ 44.3	51.6

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

a fifth; Rhode Island Greening, Northern Spy, Stayman, and Ben Davis about double. Cortlands will be about the same as last year; York Imperials about a tenth less.

#### More Cranberries Than Average

This year's cranberry crop, estimated at 835 thousand barrels, is more than a fourth larger than the 10-year average crop of 665 thousand barrels. Last year's record large crop totaled 968 thousand barrels.

#### Less Grapefruit Than Usual; Oranges Plentiful

The grapefruit crop is forecast at only 78 percent of last season and only 71 percent of average. Oranges will be about 4 percent above last year's production and 15 percent above average. Lemons will be about a fifth above last year, but down from average by about a tenth.

#### Fewer Fresh Vegetables This Fall

Fresh vegetables this fall, though more than average, will not be quite so plentiful as a year ago. Cauliflower and green peppers, record crops. Cabbage about average. Lettuce, above average but much less than last year. Carrots a fifth less than last year and less than average. And less than last year for most other fall vegetables. Total of 25 fresh market vegetables (including asparagus for processing and cabbage for kraut) for the entire year '49 is about 8.2 million, 5 percent less than in '48 but up from average by 7 percent.

#### For Processing Also Down a Little

For processing--9 truck crops in '49--4.8 million tons, about 7 percent less than in '48 but a little more than average (asparagus and kraut cabbage not included). Harvested acreage this year--about 1.7 million acres--is up nearly 10 percent from last year and average.

#### Milk Output Near Record

October milk production was second highest for the month on record and exceeded October last year by 3 percent. October this year, 9 billion pounds; last year, 8.7 billion; average, 8.7 billion. Milk produced first 10 months this year totaled 101.4 billion pounds; same period last year, 99.3 billion; 10-year average for same period, 99 billion pounds.

#### Record Egg Production

Farm flocks laid 3.7 billion eggs in October, 7 percent more than in October last year and 35 percent above 10-year average. It was the largest October egg production of all time, also a record rate of lay. Eggs produced first 10 months this year total 47.9 billion eggs; last year, 47.7 billion; average, 43 billion. Average U. S. rate of lay, first 10 months, was 145 eggs, compared with 143 last year and 131 average. Rate per layer in October was 10.8 eggs, compared with 10.3 year earlier and 8.4 average.

#### A Few More Layers Now on Farms

Farmers' laying hens in October totaled about 348 million--2 percent more than in October last year and 6 percent above the average. The increase in layers from the previous month was about the same as usual--11 percent from October 1 to November 1 compared with an average of 10 percent increase for the similar period.

Potential layers (hens and pullets of laying age plus pullets not of laying age) on farms Nov. 1 totaled 479.3 million, 3 percent more than a year ago and 2 percent below average.

#### Lower Prices for Chickens and Turkeys

Liveweight chickens brought farmers 23.2 cents per pound, average, on October 15, compared with 29.9 cents a year ago. Turkeys in mid-October averaged 33.8 cents per pound, liveweight. Last year they were selling at 42.6 cents. Supplies and offerings were liberal. Twenty to thirty percent more turkeys produced this year than last.

#### Feeding For Eggs More Favorable

Egg-feed price relationship, mid-October, was more favorable than a year ago. Chicken-feed and turkey-feed price relationship, much less favorable than a year ago. Feed cost \$3.40 per 100 lbs., compared with \$3.68 year ago.

#### Meat Production Up

Commercial meat produced in the U. S. in September totaled 1,636 million pounds. This is an increase of 9 percent over the 1,496 million pounds produced in September last year. Production first 9 months of this year was up 3 percent from the same period last year. Beef production was up 7 percent; pork, 3 percent. Veal production was down 7 percent; mutton and lamb down

19 percent (estimates exclude farm slaughter). For more details see "Livestock Slaughter by States" issued by BAE November 4.

#### Heavy Movement of Feeder Cattle

Cattle feeding volume this season is indicated as large or larger than last year. Heavy movement of feeders into the Corn Belt continued through October. Shipments of stocker and feeders to the Corn Belt July through October were 48 percent larger than last year and were the highest on record. How many will be finished off and marketed this season and how many will be carried over for heavier weights is uncertain. Prices later on of feeder cattle, and other factors, will determine feeding practices. See full report, "Cattle Feeding Situation," issued by BAE November 14.

#### July-October Feeders Down \$5 Hundred Pounds

Feeder cattle at 4 large feeder markets, week ended Nov. 4, brought less than on same date last year, by about \$3.80 per hundred pounds. October price was down from the previous October by \$3.50. And the July-October average price was down by about \$5.00 per hundred pounds from year earlier.

#### Business Activity Continues At High Level

The general economic picture continues strong although trend has been slightly downward since last fall. Major cutback in expenditures in '49 has been in business spending for inventories. But in August and September inventory liquidation was at a slower rate, making possible a moderate increase in manufacturing output. The drop in spending for inventories has been partly offset by Government expenditures--for defense, for foreign aid, and by State and local Governments for construction of schools and highways.

#### Prices Paid Down Less Than Prices Received

Prices received by farmers dropped 6 index points during month ended October 15--from 249 mid-September to 243 mid-October. At the same time, prices paid by farmers dropped only 2 index points, or from 242 to 240. Prices received are down from high 64 points while prices paid are down from high only 11 points.

#### Farm Incomes at Slightly Lower Levels

Gross farm income in '49 is estimated at around 32 billion dollars, compared with 35.3 billion last year. General demand for farm products next year is likely to remain fairly high but at a slightly lower level. Farmers are expected to receive about 10 percent less from marketings in '50 than '49.

#### Civilians Employed, 59 Million

Farm employment last of October totaled 11,792,000, down about 3 percent from a year ago. Civilian employment in October (Census) was 59 million persons. This compares with 59.4 million in September and 60.1 million October last year. Unemployment in October totaled 3.6 million.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	Oct. 1949
Prices received by farmers .....	1910-14= 100	243
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes .....	1910-14= 100	240
Parity ratio .....	1910-14= 100	101
Wholesale prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	249
Retail prices of food.....	1910-14= 100	1/ 204
Farm wage rates .....	1910-14= 100	2/ 403
Weekly factory earnings .....	1910-14= 100	3/ 480
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS		
	Jan.-Oct. 1948	Jan.-Oct. 1949
Milk, (Bil. lb.) .....	99.3	101.4
Eggs, (Bil.) .....	47.7	47.9
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	4/ 4713	4/ 5290
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	4/ 447	4/ 388
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) .....	4/ 6254	4/ 6857
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	4/ 12009	4/ 13070

1/ September figure.  
2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.  
3/ August figure latest available.  
4/ January - September.